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ØØ SEOUL 11980

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ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-Ø1 ADS-ØØ CIAE-ØØ DODE-ØØ NSAE-ØØ NSCE-ØØ
SSC-ØØ ICAE-ØØ INRE-ØØ PM-Ø7 H-Ø1 INR-10 L-Ø3
PA-Ø1 SP-Ø2 SS-15 EA-Ø5 IO-14 AIL-Ø7 /Ø78 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9081
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SA CINCUNC KS
CEJUSMAG SEOUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//EJ-IS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SHUM, KS, JA, US
SUBJECT: KIM DAE JUNG TRIAL (REPORT NO. 17)
REF: SEOUL 11954

1. SUMMARY: IN AN ELOQUENT SUMMATION THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 13 (THE OTHER 23 CODEFENDANTS HAD FINISHED THEIR SUMMATION IN SIX AND ONE-HALF HOURS THE DAY BEFORE) KIM DAE JUNG DENIED ALL THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM EXCEPT VIOLATION OF MARTIAL LAW DECREES AND THE FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE CONTROL ACT. THE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY WAS AN "UNFORTUNATE ELEMENT IN KOREA'S UNFORTUNATE POSTWAR HISTORY," FOR WHICH KIM SAID HE, LIKE OTHER ELEMENTS IN KOREA'S SOCIETY, BORE SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITY. KIM HAD COUNSELED RESTRAINT AND DIALOG EVER SINCE HIS RIGHTS WERE RESTORED AND AN UNNAMED AMBASSADOR (PRESUMABLY AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEEN) HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO HIM ON MAY 12 ABOUT THE UNFOLDING OF EVENTS. KIM REJECTED, ONE BY ONE, THE

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MOST SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ABUSED IN PRISON AND HIS STATEMENTS DISTORTED. WHILE HE EXPECTS NO LENIENCY, HE HOPES THAT COMPASSION WILL BE SHOWN HIS CODEFENDANTS. KIM, AS A CHRISTIAN, HATES NOBODY, AND HE ENDED BY THANKING THE JUDGES, POLICE, PROSECUTORS, AND OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CASE. THE FAMILIES APPLAUDED KIM'S PRESENTATION AND SANG "WE WILL OVERCOME" AS THEY WERE LED FROM THE COURTROOM. SENTENCING FOR ALL DEFENDANTS WILL PROBABLY COME NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AFTERNOON SESSION SEPTEMBER 12 OF THE TRIAL WAS TAKEN UP WITH THE FINAL STATEMENTS OF 15 DEFENDANTS. IT WAS ANOTHER MARATHON SESSION LASTING FROM 1332 TO 2200. MOST OF THE STATEMENTS WERE HEAVILY POLITICAL. A COMMON THEME WAS THAT THE DEFENDANTS ADVOCATED THE ESTABLISHMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
RVIE ED BY HT DATE 8/18/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
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OF DEMOCRACY IN THE ROK AND COUNSELED AGAINST VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION. THE COURT PERMITTED EACH DEFENDANT TO SPEAK AS LONG AS HE WISHED AND ONLY OCCASIONALLY REMINDED THEM THAT THEIR REMARKS SHOULD BE RELEVANT TO THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM.

3. YI MUN-YONG (M-R), KIM CHONG-WAN (M-R), YI HAE-CHUN (M-R), AND YI SIN-POM (M-R), ALL COMPLAINED OF BEATINGS DURING THEIR INTERROGATION. OTHERS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD BEEN THREATENED WITH BEATINGS OR THAT THEIR STATEMENTS WERE VIRTUALLY DICTATED BY THE INTERROGATORS. YI MUN-YONG SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN HIS LAWYER SINCE HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED; SOL HUN CALLED THE TRIAL A "POLITICAL FORMALITY". AND KO UN-TAE SPOKE BRIEFLY, BUT DRAMATICALLY, DEMANDING THAT HE BE SENTENCED TO LIFE SINCE HE WANTED TO DIE IN PRISON "TO SHARE THE AGONY OF MY PEOPLE IN PRISON."

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4. THE MOTHER OF DEFENDANT CHO SONG-U (M-R) WAS FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM THE COURTROOM FOLLOWING AN OUTBURST DURING HER SON'S STATEMENT. CHO CLAIMED THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN AT A MEETING AS STATED IN THE INDICTMENT BECAUSE HE HAD TAKEN HIS MOTHER TO LUNCH THAT DAY. HIS MOTHER STOOD UP AND SHOUTED THAT THAT WAS TRUE. WHEN SHE REFUSED TO SIT DOWN SHE WAS TAKEN FROM THE COURTROOM, BUT WITHOUT UNDUE FORCE. FOLLOWING A SHORT RECESS, SHE WAS BACK IN THE COURTROOM, LOOKING FIT.

5. KIM DAE JUNG (M-R: KIM TAE-CHUNG) FINISHED HIS FINAL SUMMATION THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 13. HE MADE AN ELOQUENT PRESENTATION IN A STRONG VOICE (ALTHOUGH HE REMAINED STANDING THE ENTIRE TWO HOURS) WITH ALL HIS CODEFENDANTS PRESENT. KIM BEGAN BY SUMMARIZING KOREA'S "UNFORTUNATE" POLITICAL HISTORY, ESPECIALLY SINCE PRESIDENT PARK'S (M-R: PAK CHONG-HUI) ASSASSINATION LAST OCTOBER. KIM SAID HE HAD SUPPORTED PRESIDENT CHOI'S (M-R: CH'OE KYU-HA) INTERIM GOVERNMENT, AND HAD PROPOSED DIALOG WITH IT, A PROPOSAL THAT WAS REJECTED. KIM HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT DIALOG AND COMPROMISE, SINCE ONLY THROUGH THAT CAN THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY AND THOSE SUPPORTING AUTHORITARIAN SYSTEMS LIKE YUSHIN REACH AN ACCOMMODATION. CHOI'S GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ANNOUNCED A SCHEDULE FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY LIES WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. HOWEVER, THE LEGISLATURE AND KIM HIMSELF BEAR SOME OF THE BLAME, SAID KIM.

6. THE CHARGES THAT HE HAD PLOTTED INSURRECTION ARE "NONSENSE," SAID KIM. ON THE CONTRARY, THE PRESS HAD PRAISED HIS URGINGS OF RESTRAINT. KIM SAID HE HAD TRIED TO PUT A PLEA FOR RESTRAINT IN THE TONG-A ILBO BUT THAT

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HAD BEEN REJECTED AT THE GOVERNMENT'S ORDER. ALL KIM WANTED WAS A FREE ELECTION WITH KIM JONG PIL (M-R: KIM CHONG-P'IL). IF HE HAD LOST, HE WOULD HAVE WITHDRAWN QUIETLY, SAID KIM DAE JUNG. IN A MAY 12 MEETING AN UNNAMED AMBASSADOR (PRESUMABLY AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEEN, WHO DID IN FACT MEET KIM ON THAT DATE) HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO KIM ABOUT THE WAY EVENTS IN KOREA WERE UNFOLDING.
7. KIM ADMITTED SOME "LEFTIST ACTIVITY" IN THE MID-40'S. KIM ADMITTED HELPING COOPERATE IN THE FORMATION OF HAMINTONG IN THE U.S. AND JAPAN. HOWEVER, HE HAD LATER ASKED THAT HIS NAME BE TAKEN OFF THE ROLLS OF THE LATTER ORGANIZATION. KIM REVIEWED HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, AND STATED THAT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN BEFORE HE HAD BEEN "KIDNAPPED" WERE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CHARGES. IN ANY CASE, VARIOUS INVESTIGATIONS OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONALITIES INVOLVED WITH THEM HAD TURNED UP NOTHING INCRIMINATING.
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8. KIM REPEATED HIS CHARGES THAT STATEMENTS HAD BEEN EXTRACTED FROM HIM WHILE HE WAS NAKED. HE ADDED THAT HIS STATEMENT THAT "IF WE DON'T HAVE BREAD AND FREEDOM IN (SOUTH) KOREA WE CAN'T BEAT NORTH KOREA," HAD BEEN DISTORTED INTO "THERE IS NO BREAD OR FREEDOM IN (SOUTH) KOREA." ALSO SOME INVESTIGATION RECORDS, LIKE THOSE PERTAINING TO YI MUN-HONG (M-R), HAD BEEN FORGED. KIM AGAIN ASSERTED THAT HE HAD NEVER COUNSELED USING FORCE TO STUDENTS. ALSO, HE HAD REFUSED TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT DEMANDING LENIENCY FOR PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSIN KIM CHAE-KYU (M-R), SINCE KIM WAS CLEARLY GUILTY.
9. IN CLOSING, KIM SAID THAT DEMOCRACY WILL COME TO KOREA IN THE 80'S. CHUN (M-R: CHON TU-HWAN) HAD BECOME PRESIDENT WHETHER ONE LIKES IT OR NOT, AND KIM HOPES HE WILL TALK WITH DEMOCRATIC FORCES TO ACHIEVE UNITY. "GOD

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MADE ME STAND IN THIS COURT FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY, AND GOD WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE MY LIFE THROUGH THE HAND OF THE GOVERNMENT." KIM SAID HE HATES NO ONE AND PRAYS FOR ALL. HE HOPES THERE WILL BE NO MORE RETALIATION IN KOREA. KIM ENDED BY THANKING ALL CONCERNED-- THE JUDGES, PROSECUTORS, PRISON OFFICIALS, LAWYERS AND REPORTERS. THE CHIEF JUDGE CLOSED THE SESSION AND SAID THAT THE DATE FOR THE VERDICT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

10. APPLAUSE SWEPT THROUGH THE FAMILIES' SECTION AFTER KIM'S EMOTIONAL PRESENTATION. SOME BROKE OUT IN TEARS, AND SEVERAL BEGAN SINGING "WE WILL OVERCOME." THE COMMOTION AS THE FAMILIES WERE REMOVED WAS SOMEWHAT GREATER THAN ON PREVIOUS DAYS, BUT STILL MINIMAL. GLEYSTEEN

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